

## MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL PERFINS OF LONDON (Part 1)

by Tony Edwards

This is a series of three short pieces covering the Municipal Official Perfins of London. The first part covers the perfins of the Corporation of the City of London, the second the perfins of the County Council, and the final part will cover miscellaneous Municipal bodies which used perfins.

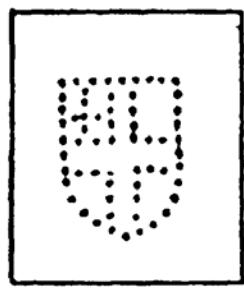
The use of perfinned postage stamps by the Corporation of the City of London originated in a resolution of the City Lands Committee of the 7th April, 1897. Following this resolution, it was decided that the Chamberlain of London should have charge of a supply of suitable stamps, and on the 26th July, 1897 the Officers & Clerks Committee resolved that these stamps should be perforated with a design based on the City's Arms as a security measure. The first stamps were issued to Departments on the 28th September, 1897, and were perforated examples of the then current ½d and 1d issues (SG 197 and 172). In 1898 2½d stamps (SG 201) were issued, followed by the 3d (SG 202) in 1900 and the 6d (SG 215) in 1904. Other denominations were issued in later years as the changes in postage rates demanded.

### Die 1a

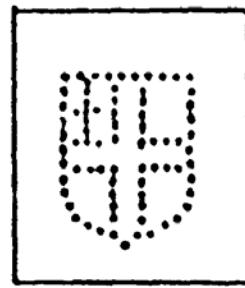
Three different dies are recorded; Die 1 and Die 1a are by Skipper & East, who had the contract from 1897 to 1926, when it was transferred to J. Sloper & Co., who perforated stamps up to 1/- value with Die 11. Dies 1 and 1a were in use concurrently as both are known on Victoria and Edwardian issues, but there seems to be no overlap between these and the later Die 11, which is known on stamps from the 1926 issues up to the current decimal issues. The use of these stamps continued until franking machines were introduced on the 1st April, 1971.



Die 1a



Die 1b



Die 11